MESSAGE NO. 1,

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY R. F. W. ALLSTON,

GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

TO THE

SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AT THE

SESSION OF 1857.

COLUMBIA, S. C.:
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MESSAGE NO. 1.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 23, 1857.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Assembling as you do for the public service from every election District in the State, representing all professions and occupations, you bear with you, doubtless, a grateful sense of the present blessings enjoyed by our citizens, of health and bountiful harvests, and will cheerfully unite with me in aspirations of praise to the Almighty Power, by whom alone they are bestowed. In view of all the circumstances by which we are surrounded, our people cannot have too scrupulous a regard to individual integrity, nor can we too strictly guard against the failings which peculiarly beset us, assured that a practical life, which best illustrates a due sense of duty to God and our neighbor, constitutes the most acceptable service to Him who orders the affairs of men, and whose eyes are upon us all.

It must needs be that sickness and death visit every community, striking down the youthful and the aged, the vigorous and active, as well as the infirm. If we have seen the energetic minds, industrious powers, and generous impulses of friends and public servants stilled in death, we have left to us the inestimable satisfaction of knowing that they met their fate with courage in the path of duty. Since your last session Death has deprived the delegation to Congress from this State of two valued members. In the month of February, the Hon. Preston S. Brooks, while in the midst of active public duty, engaged in a course of usefulness and honor, and winning by his manly conduct and sterling worth the confidence and admiration of members, was removed to another sphere. The only official intimation I had of Mr. Brooks' death, was communicated on the 25th of March, by one of our Senators, the late Judge Butler. Within two months from that date he too was laid in the silent grave, beside his gallant relative and friend. Excitable and conscientious as he was, the labors of the last Congress had proved too much for him. Honorable and fair in despatching business—vigilant and faithful in his peculiar trust—diligent, spirited, and able in discharging it, his nervous sensibilities were too highly wrought upon, and the tension of his mental energies too incessant to be longer endured by the physical frame. Soon after reaching the coveted quiet of his own home, he sank into the arms of death, universally regretted

by his associates in life, mourned and lamented by his constituents—the people of this State.

The vacancy created in the Fourth Congressional District, has been filled by the election of Gen. Milledge L. Bonham, of Edgefield, who was commissioned in May last.

In place of the Hon. A. P. Butler, I have made no temporary appointment. You will doubtless appreciate the importance of supplying the vacancy by joint ballot of both Houses without delay, in order that the new Senator may be enabled to take his seat in the next Congress at an early day of the session. There is yet to be mentioned the name of another venerable citizen, once intimately and prominently associated with the Government of both the State and the United States, whose loss we deplore, and to whose brilliant career of early service I may be permitted to allude. Erect and commanding in stature up to the day of his last illness, grave and dignified in deportment, wise in council, firm, resolute and faithful in the practice of his profession and the duties of life—such was Langdon Cheves. Successful in life, full of honors, and prostrate only under the weight of years, he has been laid in the grave by grateful countrymen and weeping friends, with all the solemnities and respectful observances due to such an occasion. He was the last of the distinguished trio, who by their ability, integrity, and courage rendered the South Carolina Delegation in Congress during the war of 1812, so distinguished and influential. Together they labored nobly and efficiently in those days of fearful excitement and trying difficulty, for the welfare and honor of their country. The Navy, which it was Mr. Cheves's peculiar care to develope and cherish; the Navy, bearing its flag and leaving its name triumphant upon every sea, taught the proud foe a lesson of justice, to recognise America as an equal among the nations of the earth. The war honorably closed and a peace establishment settled, he retired from the Speaker's chair to serve his State in the Judiciary Department, until called on by President Monroe to administer the Bank of the United States. Absent ten years he returned in 1829, to the quiet of his native hills, proclaiming to the South the danger which he had perceived afar off simultaneously with his distinguished compeer in the tendency of Federal Legislation. Beyond occasional counsel, he declined all participation in public life, until the year 1850. Then at the age of seventy-four, he appeared at Nashville as a member of the Southern Convention, intent to perform to the last his part, by warning his countrymen against the policy of a majority in Congress, which, substituting expediency for principle, was gradually sapping the constitution, and threatening ultimately the rights of the States. His last public act was signing the Ordinance of 1852—passed by the State Convention of which he was a member. Past the age of four score years, having long survived his great co-laborers and worthy colleagues, Lowndes and Calhoun, he too is gone. Like them, he has left us in his

upright example in all public stations, in the loftiness, the purity, the simplicity of his character, in the truth and power, and grandeur of his eloquence, a legacy of priceless worth.

The South Carolina College.—This Institution, so deservedly cherished by the people of the State for its usefulness, as well as its renown, has undergone, since your adjournment, a severe trial, owing to the indiscretion of youth, and some mistaken notions of honor, which have obtained among the students, together with the want of aptitude and power to administer the laws of the College, which unhappily characterized the President, a man distinguished for science, and otherwise of practical usefulness, who, as Professor of Mathematics, was eminently competent, able and valuable. Called together at an extraordinary meeting in the month of June, the Board of Trustees deemed it essential to the due performance of their trust, to re-organize the Government of the College. Accordingly, the members of the Faculty were invited to resign—President McCay had previously tendered his resignation; and the exercis s of the College were suspended till the 1st of October, thus making the annual vacation eighteen days longer than usual, and dispensing, necessarily, with the June examination. Assembling again in the month of September, at no little personal inconvenience, the Board of Trustees have deemed it wise to restore the greater number of the Professors to the duties of a Faculty, assigning to each individual the charge of the various branches of learning in such order as it is supposed will ensure hereafter their greater usefulness and efficiency. By a temporary arrangement, which was ordered by the Board of Trustees, the duties of the Mathematical Department have been assigned to the Professors of Natural Science and of Chemistry. It is to be hoped that this important chair will be definitely filled before the close of the year. However universally it be admitted that the Classics should constitute the leading feature in the leading Literary Institution of the State, yet in a community of planters and farmers, where agriculture prevails, even in connection with the learned professions, the importance of Geometry, Trigonometry, Surveying, Mensuration and Mechanics, cannot be overlooked in completing the education of youth, nor should we fail of inviting the students to a due understanding of Astronomy, Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Natural History and General Science. Again, Chemistry, Geology, Mineralogy and Meteorology, with lectures and experiments on the application of Chemistry, Geology and Electricity to agriculture, constitute an essential branch for which a Professor is provided. Until June the President of the College was, also, Professor of Mathematics. Since September the Professors LeConte have attended to the duties of this chair in conjunction with their own.

As regards discipline, it would be derogatory to the just influence of parents, supposing them to have done their duty to their children at home, and humiliating to our common nature, to maintain that intelligent and nearly grown young gentlemen need strict surveillance at College; to be kept in order by the force of authority, whilst they are profiting by the ample means to pursue the higher Mathematics, and to accomplish themselves in Classical Literature, which the State has so wisely and liberally furnished for their benefit. No! If the other members of College act with discretion, moderation and dignity, and let the younger be controlled by their precept and example. It does not often happen that men who are devoted to study, either scientific or literary, and it is with such men, chiefly, that the Professorial chairs must be filled, are found to possess, among their other gifts, talents for government. Young gentlemen of eighteen or nineteen years of age should know somewhat how to govern themselves. Until the students of the College shall become alive to a sense of their personal responsibility to the State and to themselves, the very best administration of the College laws will, unfortunately, be destined often to fail. On entering College each student signs the Roll, the caption of which embraces a pledge to conform to the regulations and to avoid unlawful combinations. On the late occasion, the young gentlemen seem to have persuaded themselves that, in upholding the authority of the President, they were acting individually, not in combination. Yet, after a conference with the Professors, it was manifest to the Board that almost the whole College was implicated. The students deemed it a point of honor to sustain the class which refused to recite to their Chief Professor, because they had questioned his integrity and soundness as an instructive Lawyer. Here is evidence of extensive combination. No sacrifice was made on account of it. It was deemed necessary that the Trustees be assembled to instruct the Faculty as to their execution of the laws of the College. Our young men are commended to the sentiment, well expressed elsewhere by an able writer, himself an alumnus of the College, obedience to law and to lawful authority is honor.

Arsenal and Citadel Academies.—I beg leave to refer you to the Report of the Board of Visitors of the State Military Academies, which are flourishing as ever. Their order and discipline are exemplary. The Graduating Class of this year, consisting of twenty, turns out to society, in its various callings, young men who, as heretofore, by their capability and willingness to be useful, will do credit to their training, and to the State whose patronage they have shared.

Free Schools.—The Free Schools are doing more good than they have been allowed credit for. Wherever educated gentlemen of the country have

generously interested themselves in the subject, and with commendable zeal and public spirit have devoted a portion of their energies to the success of the schools, the law has operated well. As a basis for a practical system, regarding the character of our population and the geographical peculiarities of the State, I have not been able to arrange one more satisfactory. Let its provisions, with some amendment, be faithfully and judiciously executed, with consideration for those chiefly interested, and it will discover itself to our community a system at once available, useful and creditable, inviting and rewarding the services of qualified teachers, a supply of whom cannot be too early provided for. The excellent public school which has been organized in Charleston by the Commissioners of St. Philip's and St. Michael's, will very soon furnish a number of young persons who, it may be hoped, will do something towards introducing into other portions of the State, the benefits of the improved system under which they have been trained. I recommend that provision be made for the establishment, without delay, of one or more Normal Schools, at which the promising pupils from the schools below may be further educated for the purpose, and trained to the art of teaching. These are admirable institutions, and, if well managed, cannot fail to send forth the young people of the State into the business of life as witnesses of their usefulness. They are eminently entitled to the notice of benevolent and public spirited citizens of wealth, who may desire to render useful to their kind, a portion of the surplus means with which they have been blessed. The first Normal School in America was founded on an offering of $10,000, for the purpose, by Mr. Dwight, a wealthy citizen of Massachusetts, to which the State added $10,000, and the thing was soon accomplished. I have seen that school in successful operation, and freely give you my belief, that a State which pretends to sustain a general system of public education should not remain a year without a school of the kind for the regular supply of competent and accustomed teachers. In order to add effect to the system, by furnishing the means for self-regulation, and by which may be imparted to it equal usefulness in every portion of the State, I recommend that the several Boards of Commissioners of Free Schools be authorized by law to raise, by assessment on the amount of general taxes in their respective Election Districts, a sum of money equal to that appropriated by the State out of the public Treasury, to be expended and accounted for in like manner. Whenever the funds can be raised for the purpose, I think it would contribute to the welfare of the State to establish also a Marine School, at the port of Charleston.

Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.—I transmit the Report of the Principal of the Asylum for Deaf Mutes and the Blind. The

public works there are in progress, and I am happy to have it in my power, by aiding in the expenditure of the public money, to contribute somewhat to the liberal establishment of this high charity. Among the blind, as well as the deaf and dumb, trades are beginning to occupy the minds and the hands of pupils, thus assuring them of their ability to be helpful, and cultivating a wholesome self-respect and cheerful industry. Soon will grow up a colony of pupils on the lands of the State, and a society which will be independent and thriving, by their various trades and occupations. The Commissioners will see to its regulation in due time. These good citizens have performed so well the service of the State in this regard—so consistent and disinterested have been their labors—so judicious their arrangements for the benefit of their charge, that I have great satisfaction in co-operating with them *ex-officio*.

I recommend that they be invited to embrace within the sphere of their supervision the public education under the Free School laws; that they be authorized to organize and establish one or more Normal Schools in each division of the State for the preparation of teachers, and to introduce and explain improvements in the methods of instruction. They should be allowed, while on duty, during the recess of the Legislature, the pay and mileage of members. Hitherto they have received no compensation beyond that which arises from the consciousness of rendering good service to the State, and kind offices to the interesting objects of their care.

De La Howe School at Lethe.—During the last summer, in making a military tour through the State, a day was devoted to the school at Lethe, in Abbeville District, founded by the will of Dr. John De La Howe, at the close of the last century. He devises the land on which he resided, with all his lands adjacent, his library, &c., &c., for the purpose of keeping up the farm, and establishing a school for the support and education of twelve boys and twelve girls, of Abbeville District, so as to qualify them to make intelligent and useful farmers and farmers' wives, and especially recommends that the principles of *chemistry* be taught, so far as they are applicable to practical agriculture and domestic economy. Thus it is, indeed, a valuable nucleus of agricultural education, worthy of the consideration and enlightened patronage of the General Assembly. It is the foundation of a benevolent foreigner, whose remains are there entombed, and whose example is entitled to lasting honor and influence. I have recommended to the worthy Commissioners, who now devote their time and attention to its interests, to raise the standard of education in proportion as their means will allow. A difficulty in the way of their greater usefulness, they represent to me, lies in the want of places for their pupils after completing their term of four years. If they were authorized, by law, to send one of their young men annually

to the Arsenal Academy, at Columbia, or four, or even two in the course of four years, and also within the same term, four of the girls to a Normal School, in order to learn the art of teaching, this obstacle might ultimately be passed. Their teacher, this year, is a young man, formerly one of their pupils, who has passed successfully through the four year's course of the State Academies. It would contribute materially to the progress of that kind of education which has so long been desired in Carolina, if this young man could be sent to an agricultural school in Europe for two years, and return to take charge of the Lethe School four years, in compensation

Finance and Banks.—The financial condition of the State is sound, though at the present moment necessarily somewhat embarrassed. Without including the surplus revenue, $1,051,422 09, which is held on deposit, the debt of the State amounts to $3,058,681 50, drawing interest at a rate varying from 3 to 6 per cent. The taxes returned for the last fiscal year are $463,144 55. The ordinary annual expenses do not exceed $350,000, but the payments out of the Treasury the past year far exceed that sum. For particulars, I refer to the report of the Comptroller General.

The same report will present the monthly exhibit of the condition of the Banks. Within ten years the number of Banks has been increased to twenty, which are returned monthly, with an aggregate capital of $14,837,-641 25, with a specie basis in September of $999,399 76, and a line of domestic exchange amounting to $10,265,530 98. Of the last sum six of the Banks in the commercial city of Charleston, having a capital of $8,137,-642 25, returned for their part only $3,027,657 73. The capital of the ten Banks first named in the exhibit amounts to $10,137,642 25; their circulation for September was $3,389,826; their specie on hand for the same month, $597,949 15. The circulation of the same Banks, as shown in the month of October, was $3,806,504, and their specie amounted to $436,893 95. The ten Banks last named, having together a capital of $4,700,000, returned for their circulation in September $3,715,344; specie on hand, $401,450 21. The circulation of the same Banks, as shown in the October exhibit, was $3,218,315 50; specie on hand, $267,807 11.

In the first half of the year, I was pleased to learn that the bills of the principal Banks in South Carolina constituted still a portion of the most approved currency in the West, and were available also to travellers as far North as the city of New York. Those of some of the smaller Banks, it was said, were sometimes found, at certain points in the Western States, circulating too freely and in too great numbers. In granting charters hereafter, I think it would be well to confine the Banks to dealing in exchange, discount and deposit. The issue of bills for currency should be the prerogative of the Bank of the State, which, in its turn, should be denied the

privilege of discounting notes or dealing in domestic exchange. The corporations which demand a circulating medium for their business, should apply to the State authority for the same, depositing one-third of the amount desired in specie, and the remainder in satisfactory securities, so as to assure the public of the soundness and convertibility of a mixed currency. This suggestion is made on the supposition that the State will adhere to the Bank of the State as its fiscal agent, not because I prefer it as such. Unless some such modification of the system be adopted, I am of opinion that it would conduce to the soundness of the currency, and more to the interest of the whole community, to have the banking business of the State done by six corporations, instead of twenty.

I recommend that the laws against usury be repealed, leaving the legal rate of interest at 7 per cent., where no contract is made. Acknowledging the principle of this reform as sound, I have hitherto, in another capacity, refrained from pressing it, believing that the public mind should be prepared for it by full discussion. I am now of opinion that it should no longer be postponed. Money is entitled to the benefit of a market as well as every commodity; and the owner of money should not be denied the privilege of lending it except through the artificial, and sometimes costly, medium of a corporation. Banks, too, should be allowed to take, for the use of money loaned, whatever it is worth in the market, and be thereby relieved from the tempting facility of evading the law in order to increase their profits.

Suspension of Specie Payments.—Regarding the recent revulsion in finance and the currency, I will not attempt to enumerate its causes, but will venture to direct your attention not so much to the Banks, as to the system of banking. A system which sanctions the issue of paper money to so large an amount, leading to inflated credits, inflated prices, extravagant habits of living and reckless speculation, may be supposed calculated to produce a crisis sooner or later. The unhappy sinking of a ship with bullion from California, or any event sufficiently exciting to create a momentary panic, was enough to precipitate it. It has had the effect to paralyze the arm of honest industry, wherever labor is opposed to capital—to depress the opening market for produce—and to impair the confidence between man and man. The banks in this State were affected by the common panic, and felt the pressure severely. Some of them, yielding to its influence, have suspended specie payments. The suspension of specie payments by a bank, is a failure to redeem its notes on demand—a forfeiture of its promise to pay in gold or silver, current coin, the full value of every bill issued from its counter,—a promise, on which is based the privilege granted by the State to issue bills and to circulate them as currency. However it may

be supposed to afford present relief to the business interests of the country, which, unfortunately, are so wound up with the banks as to suffer inevitably from the contraction of their credits and their stringent demands, it is demoralizing in its tendency.

The banks of this State, with which I am at all familiar, are well administered. Several of them have bravely withstood the shock, and are prepared to do a legitimate business as usual. All, it is believed, are solvent. If, however, there be some so dependent on the banks and brokers of New York, as to fail in their pledges to the public, when the Northern banks fail, it is their misfortune to have to answer for the sins of others, as well as for their own mismanagement. The consequences to the quiet, uninitiated, and the laboring community, are alike distrust and loss, leading to want and suffering, too often to moral ruin and crime. The State, too, suffers from the abstraction of coin and the depreciation of credit in the sale of her bonds, both for building the New State Capitol and for aiding the construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad. (Of the former, I signed 400 certificates on the 5th of March, and of the latter, 100 on the 4th of May.)

Whatever the exigency, it will be long before confidence is generally restored, and commerce can move tranquilly and safely in its usual channels, though not near so long, I trust, as in 1837. Then the suspension in Charleston took place in May, and lasted 15 months; now, it occurs in October, at the opening of a business season, with a fair (though not large) crop of cotton and rice on hand, as the basis of commercial communication with capitalists of the home market, and of exchange with Europe.

The moment of excitement, apprehension and financial pressure, is not a time to legislate respecting the banks. The existing laws, if sound, will be vindicated in practice; if otherwise, it will be wise to repeal or modify them when the public mind is calm, and commercial confidence shall have been restored. In enacting statute law, the statesman, to whose wisdom and integrity the public welfare is entrusted, will not, for the sake of doing something when in position, yield either to the crude suggestions of his own observation, or to the outside influence of opinions, created by undue excitement on the one hand, or by interested individuals or corporations on the other.

Meanwhile, I may not omit to invite attention to the admirable operation of the system of finance, separate from banks, long since adopted by the Federal Government—in sanctioning which, that Government has entitled itself to the respect and confidence which are due to superior wisdom and foresight. During the recent confusion and consequent panic in commercial circles, it has done much to break the crash upon the people of the unstable frame-work erected upon the credit system, and to save them from the full effects of the collapse of an inflated bank currency.

In a pecuniary sense merely, salaried officers are not injured by such convulsions, which must reduce prices. But of all classes the least liable to be affected by them is the planter, who is happily out of debt, who properly drains and plows deep his soil, and whose contented family illustrate in their daily life the beauties of simplicity and virtue—the social cheerfulness of industry and a just economy. Let him send forward to market his crop, as it is prepared. Every sale that is made, every debt that is paid, every hundred dollars which circulates from hand to hand, will help to restore the general credit, and to re-establish a healthy currency, so necessary to prosperous and stable markets. Planters, as well as others, must submit to a reduction of prices. They are entitled, also, to claim the benefit of a reduced scale in purchasing supplies. Although the market for produce must rule lower, it will soon become healthy and compensating, if the crops be not withheld.

The Laws.—With my best discretion, I have endeavored to ensure a faithful execution of the laws. Several cases of hardship doubtless have occurred. Where such have not been relieved by executive interference, it has been owing to the too frequent instances of a similar kind, imperatively requiring examples to deter others from offending.

It is to be regretted that offences by illicit traffic in spirituous liquors with negroes especially, are so numerous. The too prevalent taste for strong drink suggests this trade to the unprincipled, as the ready means of making a livelihood, or of amassing ill-gotten gains. As the difficulty of detection increases, it may be well to revise the law and make some amendment as to its sanctions and the nature of its penalties. In certain quarters the evils growing out of its infraction are complicated, and threaten, unless checked, to become grave.

It may be in this, as in some other cases, that the law would be efficacious, if those who are expected to enforce it were more faithful and prompt. There is a tenderness in our nature, which misapplied, deters men from informing against offenders, and from carrying out fully the law entrusted to their vigilance. There exists, too, sometimes, an indifference as to a proper knowledge of the laws generally, which, inexcusable in the citizen, aids the bold man, whose design is to profit by disregarding their provisions. Even some who bear the commission of the State seem, in ignorance of the law prescribing their duties, to act mainly on grounds of expediency and motives of policy. Surely the citizen who accepts, much more he who solicits a commission, should inform himself as to the duties of his station, and perform them to the best of his ability, faithfully.

Whenever I have had occasion to interfere at all with the sentence of the Courts, in cases where the penalty was to be inflicted on the person,

either capitally or corporeally. I have directed the Sheriff to confine its execution to the precincts of the jail-yard, with the Clerk of the Court and some few substantial citizens as witnesses.

I think that the law is deficient in omitting to provide some punishment for those offences which are technically called breaches of trust, or embezzlement, in contra-distinction to larceny; the violation of morality is the same in both—the difference between them, artificial and shadowy; and I see no good reason why the one should be visited with the most degrading punishment known to our statute book, while the other passes unnoticed. Recent experience has brought forcibly to my notice that some statutes, prescribing a severity of punishment which is not consonant with the necessities, or the spirit of the age, have been allowed, through oversight, to remain unrepealed, and, though nearly obsolete in fact, are still of force, legally. In this view I would recommend a revision of the criminal law, and considering that this law is simple, and capable of being rendered comprehensible to all persons of intelligence, I think its reduction into a code would be advisable.

Federal Relations.—In the occasional discussions of the political position of the State, I have taken no part. Regarding it as well settled since the Convention of 1852, I perceive no room for material differences amongst her citizens who wish to agree. If there be a respectable number who desire to associate themselves with the general Democratic party in nominating conventions, let them do so without committing the State. While indulging the spirit of conciliation, however, it behooves us to beware, lest in our kind feelings towards distinguished citizens of that party, we drift into the smooth current of nationalism. The Federal aspect of South Carolina, so far as it is influenced by her State polity, is obnoxious to many politicians in America; and some of our own good men seem to believe, with them, that it is chiefly aristocratic pride which keeps her in position; that the men of South Carolina arrogate to themselves superior wisdom and patriotism, and to their women superior virtue. Whereas, without arrogating to themselves any superiority, the truth is, that whatever of wisdom or patriotism or virtue may characterise her people, are among the happy consequences resulting from her institutions, political, social and domestic. Long may we cherish them.

The comparative segregation of the State in polities heretofore, is not as hopeful to some progressive minds as the power—the seeming order and harmony—proceeding from combination with a national party. Experience teaches the necessity of tolerating extremes, even in politics, in order to secure a just mean. If South Carolina has ever occupied the extreme position of isolation, it was not from choice, but from the force of the patriotic principles which regulated her action, like the balance wheel, whose motion,

peculiar, and to the careless observer apparently useless, is yet so necessary to the successful and safe operation of the great engine. There is, in fact, no disposition on the part of this State to either fanaticism or isolation. Politicians may wrangle, and public journals may oppose one extreme of opinion and argument against another; the people of the State will adhere to the just medium. Venerating and preserving those principles so essential to the reserved rights of the States, which are illustrated by the history of Carolina during the last thirty years, they will be ever ready and willing to make common cause with the neighboring States, having a common interest to protect, and to unite as heretofore with the general Democratic party in the Electoral College, and in the Federal Councils also, so long as those principles are duly respected in practice.

KANSAS.—Our friends in Kansas, who have struggled manfully to sustain an unequal contest, are entitled to our sympathy.—'tis all we have a right to offer. Notwithstanding the machinations of designing men there, and the perversions of power, whether individual or conventional, due to notions of expediency, I trust that just counsels will yet prevail and ultimately establish in that devoted Territory a system of Government conducive to their true interests and the public welfare.

MAINE AND CONNECTICUT.—I transmit certain resolutions from the States of Maine and Connecticut, which indicate the prevailing opinion of the Legislatures from which they emanate—so totally at variance with our own. They protest against the late decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Scott *vs.* Sandford. The political principles recognized by the decision referred to, meet with the sanction of the people of South Carolina, who applaud the wisdom of the decree in which they are now judicially embodied. Owing to the prejudices of birth, education and association, men reared differently will diverge in sentiment from each other. Especially is this the case in relation to domestic slavery—an institution which existed when the American Constitution was adopted, and was recognized thereby. Let the law of charity prevail in judging one another. In preserving and protecting the property of our fathers in negro slaves, we deem ourselves entitled to the respect and aid of all good men and wise statesmen. Our ancestors, dealing with gold and silver coin, bought the negro from the capitalist of England and New England, whose thriving trade, however abused in many instances, was overruled by the Providence of God, to convert the barbarian bushman of the African coast into the orderly domestic, the Christian black-laborer of America. There are few results more amazing in statistics than those which are produced by the fruits of this labor—a labor which could no more be dispensed with by America now, than could the commerce and manufactures so dependent on its productions.

THE STATUE OF WASHINGTON.—One of the last letters which I received from the late Senator Butler, related to a copy, in bronze, of Houdon's statue of Washington, which he recommended should be purchased by the State. It is pleasing to recur to the recollection of this great and good man. It is a boon to mankind when the good God permits sometimes the wisdom of love, associated with faith and hope, to be embodied in a human form, whose favor we may look upon and admire. It is true that our debt of gratitude to his memory cannot thus be paid; but it is due to ourselves that we should acknowledge it by some visible token, and it is due to posterity to provide a monument, to which the young may be pointed when curious to realize the idea of his manly proportions, or when enjoined by their matrons to study the character of Washington, and emulate the virtues which adorn it. I propose that a statue be ordered and that provision be made for its erection with the New State Capitol.

STATE MAGAZINE.—In the month of February last, in making a visit to the Magazine in Charleston, I discovered that the proprietor of the land adjacent (Payne's Farm) had divided it into lots, allowing sufficient room for streets, which the City Authorities had caused to be traced. These lots, by squares, in succession, were sold by auction in the city market. Conceiving, forthwith, the inconvenience and danger to the property of the State that would ensue from having persons settle in dwellings of any sort, under the very walls of the Magazine, and the loss which the State would have to submit to hereafter, if desirous to dislodge them when once in possession, I did not hesitate to assume the responsibility of instructing Mr. Yeadon to purchase for the State all the lots, and part of lots, between the State lands and the line of the North-Eastern Railway. After some delay this was at length accomplished, by the assistance of the Attorney-General, in the month of May, at a cost of $3,435 50 for the land, and $11 50 for recording the titles, to which is to be added the sum of $206 07 for enclosing the grounds. A portion of this tract is low marsh, covered by the tides, and at present valueless, except for privilege; but the convenience of transportation by water on the East, and by railway on the West, renders it practicable to fill these portions whenever it may be desirable. The probability is, that the whole property will rather appreciate in value than otherwise, in the course of years. It will be proper and safe to close the streets of the city so far as they run through this property. I recommend that this be done by authority of law at your present Session.

CHARLESTON AND MEMPHIS.—The present year has been signalized by the completion of the connected railway communication between the Atlantic at Charleston and Savannah, and the river Mississippi at Memphis, in the State

of Tennessee. This happy event was duly celebrated by the Municipal Authorities of the cities at either end of the line, in May and June last. In North Latitude 32 deg. 46 min. I witnessed the meeting of the waters—those of the turbid Mississippi poured into the briny Atlantic; and on the part of the State I gave welcome to our neighbors of Georgia, and to our common friends from the Valley of the Mississippi.

I trust it will not be long before the railways from Memphis and Nashville and Knoxville will debouche into South Carolina through the Blue Ridge mountains. I had the satisfaction to witness the progress of the tunnel on this line, in the month of August. I recognized on that occasion the triumphs of science at every step, in the excellent dispositions of the engineers. The best spirit seemed to prevail among engineers, contractors, and laborers.

Geological Survey and Registration.—I trust the General Assembly will continue its patronage to the Geological Survey of the State, and to the Registration of the Births, Deaths and Marriages. Difficulties must attend both undertakings, in their incipiency. But I am persuaded that in the clever reports on those subjects, you will find reason to be encouraged in pursuing them. The report of the Geological Surveyor, and that of the Adjutant and Inspector General, are herewith submitted, together with Major Parker's report on the variations of the Magnetic Needle.

That your deliberations may be directed for good to the public weal is my sincere prayer.

Into your hands the affairs of the commonwealth are committed.

R. F. W. ALLSTON.